

known, by a Pan-American Airways clipper plane, ultimately may become both a public health and an economic disaster to the Islands.

Pointing out that spraying en route with possibly inflammable and toxic sprays is both dangerous and irritating to passengers, the scientists said the following steps should be taken:

Rigid control measures within a half-mile radius of airports should be instituted; special screened double-door embarkation vestibules for passengers should be used; planes should be mosquito-proofed so far as possible; a new spray, highly toxic for mosquitoes but nontoxic for humans, noninflammable, nonexplosive, and free of oily residue should be developed.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

Medical Lectures to Open

Opening lectures in a new series of public medical discussions sponsored by the Los Angeles County Medical Association will be held at 8 p. m. today in the El Rodeo School auditorium at Wilshire Boulevard and Whittier Drive, Beverly Hills.

Tonight's program will include a historical review of "Medicine Through the Ages" by Stanley K. Cochems, executive secretary of the Los Angeles County Medical Association. Dr. Lowell S. Goin will speak on cancer, giving a general survey, facts and fallacies of the disease.

Preliminary discussions concerning general medical education in Los Angeles County and the State will be presented by Dr. Harry H. Wilson, president of the California Medical Association, and Dr. Roy E. Thomas, president of the county association.—*Los Angeles Times*, October 15.

Use of Insurance Company Doctors as Impartial Medical Examiners Scored

San Francisco.—The legal department of the California State Federation of Labor took direct issue last week with the State Industrial Accident Commission over the commission's practice of referring injured workers to insurance company doctors for examination. The federation objected to the use of such doctors as impartial medical examiners.

In a letter to the commission concerning the case of an injured union carpenter from Oakland, named Pallister, the federation legal department informed the State Industrial Accident Commission that it had instructed Pallister to ignore the commission's order for him to report to an insurance company doctor for examination.

"It is a matter of common knowledge," the letter said, "that the doctor in question receives a large part of his income from insurance companies. . . .

"We felt, under the circumstances, that this doctor should not be appointed as an impartial medical examiner in this case or in any other case. We feel that even though he is not consciously prejudiced against an injured worker and in favor of an employer, or insurance carrier, his position would unconsciously prejudice him and affect any opinion he might render as to the right of the injured worker to collect an award of compensation."—*Fresno Labor News*, September 27.

Medical Care of Workers Scored

American Federation of Labor Asks Correction of "Abuses" Under Compensation Law

By Al T. Baum

Labor Editor, *The Examiner*

Long brewing friction between organized labor, principally building trades unions, and the State Industrial Accident Commission over asserted abuses in connection with medical attention accorded injured workers under provisions of the workmen's compensation act broke into the open yesterday.

Acting in accordance with a number of resolutions adopted by the Santa Monica convention last month, the legal department of the State Federation of Labor announced a list of demands for "correction of abuses" which will be presented to the State Industrial Commission.

Chief Objections

Main points of objection by the federation include:

1. Use of doctors under salary from insurance companies to treat injured workers and advise on the extent of their injuries.

2. Use of doctors under contract with insurance companies to treat injured workers and advise on the extent of their injuries.

3. Favoritism by the State fund in the selection of doctors.

A prepared statement from local federation headquarters declares that "it is obvious" that a physician depending upon an insurance company for a salary is "not a free agent" and that workers treated by such physicians are often denied proper medical attention "because of the cost."

Fee Policy Charged

Contract doctors, the statement continues, usually work for insurance companies under contracts which give them a percentage of the gross insurance written by the companies in their territories. "The less medical service furnished, the more the doctors make," it is charged.

The following suggestion was offered by the State Federation:

"Establishment of panels in every section of competent industrial surgeons to be prepared by a committee composed of representatives from the University of California and Stanford medical schools, various county medical societies, State industrial accident commission and the State Federation of Labor.—*San Francisco Examiner*, October 17.

* * *

Pay Ward Sought at Tulare Hospital

Tulare (Exclusive).—The Tulare County Farm Bureau and Grange today started circulation of petitions asking the county to provide a pay ward at the County Hospital here, to permit treatment of pay patients as well as charity patients.

The petition suggests a ceiling of 5 cents increase in the tax rate for the project. This would raise \$40,000 for the pay wing, Chairman Joe Hill of the Farm Bureau Hospitalization Committee said.—*Los Angeles Times*, October 4.

* * *

American Medical Association Library

The library of the American Medical Association, which ordinarily receives 1,400 periodicals, reports that medical literature from Europe is scarce these days.—*Hanford Journal*, September 29.

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High-Lights of High School Happenings

An essay contest, sponsored by the California Medical Association for students in California high schools and junior colleges has been approved by the State Department of Education. "The Role of Doctor of Medicine in the Life and Health of the American Citizen," is the contest title.

Prizes will be of \$100, first; \$50, second; \$25, third; and five prizes of \$5.00 each, accompanied by an appropriate certificate. The essays are to be original works of 3,000 words.

The contest is scheduled to close November 15 with awards being made about December 15.—*Eureka Standard*, October 4.

* * *

Pay-Hour Law Change

Act Revised to Exempt White Collar Workers Making \$200 per Month: Professional Employees

Washington (AP).—The wage-hour administration revised its rules today for the exemption of "white collar" workers from hours restrictions of the labor standards law, established a \$200 monthly salary as one yardstick for determining who is an exempt administrative or professional employee.

The new rules go into effect October 24 when forty hours becomes the standard work week for all workers covered by the act. The present maximum work week without overtime pay is forty-two hours.

Altogether, the administration made changes affecting its definitions of executive, administrative and professional employees, retail trade workers and outside salesmen. . . .

An Executive and Administrator Defined

In revising the definitions, the administration at the outset made separate classifications for "executive" and "administrative" which heretofore have been included under one definition.

An executive was defined broadly as an employee who has management duties and power to hire or fire, is paid at least \$30 a week, and does no more than 20 per cent of the kind of work performed by nonexempt employees. If he does more than 20 per cent nonexempt work, he would be classified as a working foreman and entitled to overtime pay.

An exempted administrative worker was defined as one who is engaged under only general supervision in non-manual work related directly to management policies or general business operations which require the exercise of discretion and independent judgment, and who receives \$200 a month or more.

Rules Governing the Professional Worker

An exempted professional employee (other than a doctor or lawyer) was defined as one receiving \$200 a month or over, whose work is predominantly intellectual and varied in character, whose product cannot be standardized, and which requires "knowledge of an advanced type in a field of science or learning customarily acquired by a prolonged course of specialized intellectual instruction and study, as distinguished from a general academic education" or is "predominantly original and creative in character in a recognized field of artistic endeavor." . . .

Exempted Worker Must Be Originator

In explaining the \$200 basis for exemption of administrative and professional employees, Harold Stein, hearing officer whose recommendations formed the basis for the revised rules, said that the payment of a salary commensurate with the duties of an administrative worker appeared to be the most effective check on the validity of a claim for exemption.

He expressed the view that titles alone were cheap, and asserted that a janitor should not be removed from the coverage of the act by merely calling him a "superintendent of maintenance." . . .—*San Francisco Chronicle*, October 14.

* * *

54,984 from Ninth Corps Area Will Be Called in Draft

Washington (AP).—National draft headquarters' lists, announcing the number of men to be drafted for military service from each Army Corps Area during the next year, disclosed today that the Ninth Corps Area, including California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, will provide 54,984. . . .—*San Francisco Examiner*, October 19, 1940.

* * *

Doctors Want Essays on Their Merits

Doctors of medicine in California are reversing their usual rôle by seeking advice from their patients.

Through the Committee on Public Health Education of the California Medical Association, the physicians are inviting essays on "The Role of the Doctor of Medicine in the Life and Health of the American Citizen," and asking junior college and high school students to give their views by November 15.

All residents of California are being invited to give their views on the progress of scientific medicine through a scenario contest, the winning scenario to be the theme of a motion picture to be produced by the doctors' committee. Both contests carry suitable prizes for winners.

Headquarters of the California Medical Association at 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, will advise anyone inquiring about these projects and how the doctors hope to use the answers to enable the medical profession to better serve the public.—*Woodlake Echo*, September 27.

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Medical Men Ask Essays and Scenarios from All Students

The California Medical Association is seeking advice from member patients. They are asking junior college and high school students to write an essay on "The Role of the Doctor of Medicine in the Life and Health of the American Citizen," by November 15.

They are also inviting a scenario to be written, and the winning one will be the theme of a motion picture.—*San Rafael Journal*, October 3, 1940.

* * *

Contest Sponsored by Medical Group

The State Medical Association is sponsoring an essay contest, open to students of the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades and junior college, the topic being "The Role of the Doctor of Medicine in the Life and Health of the American Citizen." Several local students are planning to enter the competition, according to word from the high school and college.

Although the essays must be original, free use of appropriate references will be allowed in preparing the 3,000 words, it was explained. The contest ends November 15, and the awards will be announced in December.—*Santa Maria Times*, October 3.

* * *

Los Angeles County Fair

Pomona to Welcome First of Expected 750,000 Sightseers

Pomona, Sept. 12 (Exclusive).—Los Angeles County's nineteenth annual fair opens its gates tomorrow on its 1940 "American Pattern for Peace" in a seventeen-day exposition which Secretary-Manager C. B. Afferbaugh predicts will be a most successful reflection of the Southland's vast assets.

Three hundred landscaped acres have been made ready for the expected 750,000 persons who will view some 15,000 individual exhibits. . . .—*Los Angeles Times*, September 13.

Doctors to Greet Three State Officers at Dinner

Members of the Riverside County Medical Society and their wives will join those of the San Bernardino County group at a dinner honoring three officers of the California Medical Association Tuesday at Mapes Cafeteria in San Bernardino at 7 p. m.

Brief addresses will be made by Dr. Henry S. Rogers of Petaluma, President-elect of the California Medical Association; Dr. George H. Kress of San Francisco, Secretary, and Dr. S. J. McClendon of San Diego, delegate at large, and Dr. C. L. Emmons, Ontario.

Dr. T. A. Card, President, will lead the Riverside County group, which will include Dr. W. W. Roblee, past State President. This event will replace the October meeting of the local doctors' organization.—*Riverside Enterprise*, October 4.

* * *

Health Administration Change Opposed by County Officer Pomeroy Declares Recommendation of United States Survey to Invoke Old State Law Impractical

A recommendation made in the United States public health survey of the Los Angeles City Health Department that use be made in this area of the California local health district law is censured in the annual report of County Health Officer J. L. Pomeroy, filed yesterday with the Board of Supervisors.

Doctor Pomeroy calls attention to the fact that the County Health Department studied and considered the use of the California act twenty years ago and that it was rejected because of serious defects which rendered it inapplicable to a metropolitan district. Among these he cited:

1. The law provides for the creation of an independent governing body with power to levy additional taxes up to 15 cents on each \$100 of assessed valuation, over and above all other taxes.

2. That public health would be thrust directly into politics, because there is no provision made for the adoption of civil service.

3. That there is no provision for social security such as retirement, disability, etc.

4. That the governing body would be independent of the Board of Supervisors and would consist of one representative of each of the incorporated cities and rural districts, thus providing the possibility of the governing body having a huge membership, approximately forty-seven persons.

Doctor Pomeroy points out in his report that the public health affairs of thirty-nine cities in the county are efficiently taken care of under the present plan, which is applicable to any city within the county boundaries.—*Los Angeles Times*, October 16.

* * *

Cut Number of Less Fit

Editor of *The Bee*—Sir: During the peak of the depression it was found that among those families of low social status, low income and unemployment, there was more sickness and malnutrition among the children and a higher birth rate among the parents than in other families. A report of the National Resources Committee (May 14, 1938) states that where living standards were the lowest the birth rate was 70 per cent more than enough to replace the parents; where living conditions were the highest there was a deficit of 17 per cent in the reproduction rate.

An analysis of the above shows that if one hundred parents of the lowest standard group were given sufficient humanitarian aid to avoid disease and other misfortunes, and if their descendants were to propagate at the same rate, thirteen generations would produce 167,000 descendants; while if one hundred parents of the highest standard group continued their reproductive rate for the same period, there would be living but nine descendants. Long before that time we would be overwhelmed by degeneracy and chaos.

History teaches that the great nations of the past began to decline in their greatness when they reached that period of economic sufficiency that work was not an essential for many, and the least fit were placed on a dole and allowed to produce an unlimited number of offspring who became consumers and not producers.

Our nation is drifting close to the breakers. An eugenics program to reduce the number of the less fit and increase the number of the most fit is the solution to the problem.—Eugene H. Pitts, M. D., Sacramento, October 5, 1940.—*Sacramento Bee*, October 7.

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San Francisco Poll Approves Medical Examination Before Marriage

By DAN E. CLARK II
Director, Front Door Ballot Box

California's required medical examination before marriage rated almost unanimous approval among San Fran-

ciscans when their sentiment on this subject was checked by the latest Front Door Ballot Box survey.

At the same time, the survey indicates, approximately two-thirds of all San Franciscans believe this requirement causes many couples to go outside the State for their marriage licenses.

Cross Section

In the course of this survey, conducted expressly for *The Examiner*, trained interviewers were sent to persons in a scientifically calculated cross section of the city's total adult population. The following question was asked:

"Do you approve or disapprove of the present required medical examination for a marriage license?"

Here is the way those having opinions answered:

Approve 94%
Disapprove 6%

(Only one person in thirty-three had no definite opinion when asked this question.)

The general point of view was that a restriction of this sort is effective in promoting social welfare and more generally satisfactory marriages.

Healthier People

"It makes for a healthier race," said a drug store clerk.

Objections to the medical examination law appeared to be mainly on grounds it is a restriction of freedom. The wife of a city employee contended it *"wasn't needed for the last hundred years; why should we have it now?"*

The proprietor of a magazine shop declared, *"You can't legislate people into being moral."*

It is interesting to note that, although nearly every one favored the law, a significant majority readily agreed many couples avoided it by being married outside California. The question on that point was answered:

Yes 66%
No 34%

(Approximately one person in six had no opinion in the matter. These are not included in the above tabulation.)—*San Francisco Examiner*, October 17.

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British Doctors Urge Armor to Prevent Shrapnel Wounds Germans Reported Using It as Protection for Their Soldiers in Modern Warfare

Chicago, Sept. 5 (AP).—The well-dressed British soldier will wear streamlined armor if England's doctors have their way.

The belief that a modification of medieval armor has a place in modern warfare was expressed at a recent meeting of the Royal Academy of Medicine Surgeons reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

They noted that the Germans were reported to be using body armor.

Suggestions included larger helmets, visors, gantlets, curtains of chain mail attached to the back of helmets and steel or compressed fiber plates for chest protectors.

The old objection to armor—that it would overload the soldier—was regarded as no longer applying, because of the extensive mechanization of army movements and the development of lighter protective materials.

Specimens of compressed fiber, including bakelite, were said to have "the same tensile power as aluminum but half its weight" and to be adequate protection against shrapnel.

Doctors noted that in the last war many soldiers were killed by small missiles entering the chest and ripping up one of the great vessels or the heart.—*Los Angeles Times*, September 6, 1940.

• • •

Health Department Made Federal

Urged to Put Secretary of Health in Cabinet

Chautauqua, N. Y., Sept. 5 (UP).—Inclusion of a secretary of health in the Cabinet is urged by Dr. Nathan Van Etten of New York, President of the American Medical Association.

Addressing a group of physicians at Chautauqua Institute, Doctor Van Etten slashed at what he called "amateur philosophers and log-rolling politicians whose superficial humanitarianism has been stimulated by job-seeking welfare agencies."

Reviewing advances in American medical technique during the past century, Doctor Van Etten recalled that Bismarck and Lloyd George both had set up compulsory health insurance as a means of gaining the support of their peoples. He admitted that the time was "more than ripe" for a national health program, but urged that it be established with the utmost care by skilled professional men.

"I would like to see a new national department to be known as the Department of Health headed by a secretary who must have had a medical education and be licensed to practice medicine," he declared.

Referring to national budgeting for health, Doctor Van Etten attacked the "stratosphere extravagances" of the Wagner Health Act and similar "excursions into Utopia."

"I believe that needs for health should be discovered in the smallest political subdivision such as the school district, then referred to the township, to the county, to the state, to the Federal authority in that order and that the Federal authority should be called upon as infrequently as possible," he said.

The medical leader also urged local physicians to realize their responsibilities in seeing to it that an eventual health program be professionally-sound rather than merely politically-expedient.—*San Francisco News*, September 5, 1940.

LETTERS

Concerning Reprint of Articles on Socialized Medicine Reprinted from "Rocky Mountain Medical Journal" in October Issue of "California and Western Medicine."

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the September issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on page 133, appeared a page reprint of an article taken from the *Rocky Mountain Medical Journal*, giving the views of the Republican Presidential nominee, Wendell Willkie, Esq., on the subject of "Socialized Medicine."

In the October issue, on page 181, a similar page was reproduced from the *Rocky Mountain Medical Journal*, in which Mr. Stephen Early, secretary to the President, presented a statement of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's views on the subject. On page 182 was given an additional letter sent to the OFFICIAL JOURNAL by Elmer Belt, M. D. Below appears a letter dated October 14, subsequently received from Secretary Stephen Early. President Roosevelt's address referred to, in substance, was as printed on page 182 of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. Secretary Early's later letter of October 14, follows:

(COPY)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 14, 1940.

George H. Kress, M. D.

Editor, California and Western Medicine

2004 Four Fifty Sutter
San Francisco, California

Dear Doctor Kress:

Please accept the President's thanks for your letter of September 2, forwarding a tear sheet of page 133 from the September issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

The President's views on the subject therein dealt with were expressed in a speech delivered at the Jersey City Medical Center, Jersey City, New Jersey, on October 2, 1936, and for your information I have much pleasure in enclosing a copy of that speech.

The views expressed by the President on that occasion have in no wise been changed or modified since the delivery of the speech in question and still constitute a complete statement of his principles.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) STEPHEN EARLY,
Secretary to the President.

Concerning Report of a Committee of the San Francisco County Medical Society: Re "Drivers' Qualifications."

(COPY)

CHARLES A. NOBLE, JR., M. D.
SAN FRANCISCO

October 7, 1940.

Dear Doctor Kress:

I enclose the report of a Committee of the San Francisco County Medical Society, appointed last January to make a